and the United States, as visualised by Prime Minister and the US President in March, provides the opportunity to discuss all issues of mutual concern, including that of the remaining US unilateral restrictions on India.

Imposing economic sanctions on Pakistan

†1317. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir has suggested to Government to impose economic sanctions on Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on the said suggestion and whether Government is considering to take a decision on this issue; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Ministry of External Affairs has not received any proposal, concerning Pakistan, from the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Does not arise.

Media report on atrocities against Christians in India

1318. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the media report published in Washington Post on 3rd July, 2000 regarding certain atrocities against Christians in India;

(b) what are the salient features of this article;

(c) what action Government have taken at diplomatic level to explain the India's position since the article adversely affects the secular image of India at international level; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the article says that Union Home Minister "see no reasons for alarms"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the media report referred to in the Question.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The report recounts certain alleged acts of violence against members of the Christian community in India and seeks to draw its own inferences on the causes of these incidents.

(c) The international community is well aware of India's abiding commitment to secularism and the constitutional and legal safeguards that exist in this regard. Government has conveyed in its bilateral discussions with other countries, the correct perspective on the nature of these incidents and the active investigation being carried out to bring their perpetrators to justice.

(d) The article has attributed these remarks to the Home Minister without substantiating the basis for such attribution.

Agreement to tackle ISI activities by India and Nepal

1319. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI RAVI SHANKER PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have recently agreed to tackle ISI activities in an effective manner;

(b) if so, the details of agreement held between both the countries; and

(c) how both countries will help each other to tackle ISI activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The Government of India have discussed from time to time with the Government of Nepal our concerns about the ISI misusing the Nepalese territory and the open India-Nepal border for activities inimical to India's interest. Reports received by the Government indicate increasing evidence of ISI using Nepal as a staging post for terrorist activities directed against India and the Nepalese Government have been sensitised on this issue.

Measures have been taken to enhance cooperation with Nepal, particularly with regard to implementing effective border management. The concerned agencies of the two Governments remain in regular touch to coordinate efforts to tackle this problem. There are also bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks, which have been evolved to specifically develop cooperation on security matters and to address these concerns. In pursuance of the decisions taken in these meetings, both sides have agreed to jointly coordinate measures, including stepping up vigil along the contiguous border